

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 17698 261826Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----020047 271500Z /70

R 261525Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 859
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T CAIRO 17698

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, UR, MASS
SUBJ: SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENT ON SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT

1. AHAM OCT 23 CARRIED SHORT TERM DATELINED WASHINGTON THAT US ADMINISTRATION HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO AUTHORIZE LOCKHEED AND GE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR RENOVATION OF PROPELLERS OF MIG 21'S. TWO CORPORATIONS SAID TO BE CONDUCTING FINAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIDENTIFIED EUROPEAN FIRM TO CONCLUDE A SUBCONTRACT. EUROPEAN FIRM TO SIGN PRINCIPAL CONTRACT WITH EGYPT.

2. DURING CALL ON POLCOUNS OCT 26, SOV FIRSEC DERKOVSKY, WITHOUT REFERRING TO ABOVE ARTICLE, ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT TWO US FIRMS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN OVERHAULING MIG AIRCRAFT. POLCOUNS PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF DETAILS OTHER THAN THAT WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS AND OFFICIAL US STATEMENTS. DERKOVSKY SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY SUCH ARRANGEMENT SINCE IT WOULD BE MANY TIMES MORE EXPENSIVE THAN TO MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT AND DO OVERHAULING WITH SOV SPARE PARTS. SINCE WESTERN FIRMS WOULD CERTAINLY REQUIRE PAYMENT IN HARD CURRENCY, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY EGYPT DID NOT PURCHASE SPARE PARTS FROM USSR. POLCOUNS SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO GOE PUBLIC STATEMENTS, USSR

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HAD PLACED TWO CONDITIONS ON SUPPLY OF SPARES: PAYMENT IN HARD CURRENCY AND "POLITICAL DOCUMENT". DERKOVSKY MAINTAINED THAT "POLITICAL DOCUMENT" WAS NOT ONE OF CONDITIONS AND USSR WILLING TO SELL SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT FOR HARD CURRENCY.

3. COMMENT: DERKOVSKY IS CAUTIOUS IN HIS STATEMENTS AND IN PAST HAS PROVEN TO BE RELIABLE ALTHOUGH NOT PARTICULARLY

INFORMATIVE. HIS QUERY ABOUT IS FIRMS ENGAGING IN OVERHAULING
OF MIG 21'S SEEMED TO BE MAIN PURPOSE OF CALL. ALTHOUGH
HE PROBABLY ON FISHING TRIP, IT CONCEIVABLE THAT IN ORDER
TO FORESTALL THIS PROJECT, WHICH HAS OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS
FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, SOVS MAY BE WILLING TO LESSEN CONDITIONS
FOR SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE,
HOWEVER, TO SUGGEST THIS IS THE CASE.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, SPARE PARTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
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Office: ACTION SS
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, EG, UR, US
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